

Student Activists take over Montréal Day of Action protesters occupy offices

by Paul Beaulieu

On Wednesday February 11, students from several Québec universities and CEGEPs, allied with other social activists, staged a Day of Action in downtown Montréal. A hundred people occupied the offices of the Conseil du Patronat, a business lobby group in Québec. About a thousand people took part in the demonstration, which started at Concordia's downtown campus at about 12h30, and eventually proceeded down Sherbrooke Street to University Street, then down half a block to stop outside the offices of the Conseil to support the occupiers.

The organizers of the Day of Action called it "Popular Action to FREE Education," and the demands included: the negotiation of a "pan-Canadian accord" among all levels of government, guaranteeing fully publicly funded, quality, accessible and free education at all levels;

democratic and self-governing post-secondary educational institutions; the right to protest "freely and without repression;" and "a global economy based on fair trade and solidarity."

Québec Canadian Federation of Students Chair Anna Kruzynski said that the demanded "pan-Canadian accord" should enshrine not only the right to education, but other basic rights such as health care and food. "If govern-

ments can negotiate an accord on trade, they can negotiate an accord on (these) human rights."

At approximately 13h, about a hundred people successfully occupied the offices of the Conseil du Patronat. Soon afterward, the news reached the other demonstrators, and the rally soon set off for the occupation site. On University just below Sherbrooke, some of the occupiers could be seen through the sixth floor office windows (and they later reported being able to see and hear what was going on

in the street below). Riot police could be seen just inside the entrance of the building.

Matthieu Houle-Courcelles and Anna Kruzynski explained to the crowd why the Conseil du Patronat had been targeted, declaring them to be "lobbyists for the neo-liberal agenda." "They lobbied against equal pay for men and women. This office has been fighting against increases in the minimum wage... This office has been lobbying in favour of free trade, things like NAFTA, things like APEC, things like the MAI."

The occupiers had made a sign in the office windows denouncing the MAI (Multilateral Agreement on Investment), due to be signed by Canada and 28 other countries this spring, and which will ensure even greater protection for international corporations.

Another sign read "Reine Occupation Solidarité", a reference to the 108 protesters against hunger arrested last Dec. 3 at the Queen Eliza-

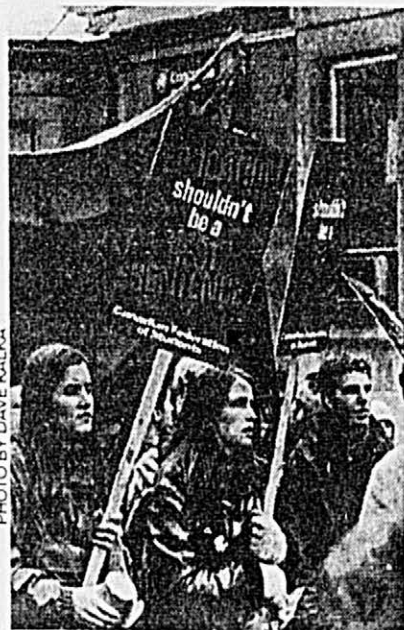


PHOTO BY DAVE KALKA

Protesters demanding "pan-Canadian accord"



PHOTO BY DAVE KALKA

Puppet sighted at Day of Action

Differential Fee Court Battle Lost

Out of Province Students will still pay more

by Sonia Verma

A legal challenge to the Parti Québécois government's policy of charging differential tuition fees was rejected by the Quebec Superior Court, reaffirming the controversial new fee structure which requires out of province students to pay \$4,800 more than Quebec residents to complete their university degree.

The Students Society of McGill University (SSMU) launched the court challenge in September, as one in four McGill students from outside the province felt the initial financial pinch of coughing up \$40 more per credit than they did last year.

SSMU and the case's main plaintiff Paul Ruel, a third-year political science student, argued that differential tuition fees contravene the Charter of Rights by hindering the mobility of Canadian students pursuing post-secondary education, and the Quebec Education Act, which prohibits discrimination. They also charged that Minister of Education, Pauline Marois acted outside of her authority in announcing the new policy without an official mandate from her constituents or other members of the Parti Québécois government.

In his February 11 decision Judge Claude Tellier ruled firmly in favour of Marois and categorically dismissed each argument presented by the plaintiffs, calling the likeli-

hood of an appeal into question.

"The Minister has the authority from the National Assembly to impose conditions on universities and this authority includes the possibility of creating a category based on residence," the judgement read.

Tellier stated that an increase in tuition for out-of-province students does not pose a significant barrier to Canadian students' mobility. He further ruled that differential tuition fees are not discriminatory based on the Charter of Rights which prohibits discrimination on the basis of nationality or ethnicity but not on the basis of provincial origin.

"The plaintiffs are confusing two notions which are very different, the notion of residence with ethnicity or nationality. We don't see how the policy of the Minister could constitute discrimination based on ethnic or national origin."

Elizabeth Gomery, vp university affairs was extremely disappointed with the Superior Court's dismissal of SSMU's arguments. She contends that differential tuition fees severely threaten accessibility. McGill has sustained a five per cent loss in out-of-province student enrollment over the past year and Gomery suggests differential tuition fees are the problem.

"People are perceiving education

in this province as not open to all," she stated. "The message the policy sends is very clear: You are not welcome in this province." Gomery also alleges that the Court's affirmation of Marois' authority in implementing differential fees gives the Minister a dangerous amount of unchecked freedom to draft educational policy.

André Durocher, the lawyer who represented the plaintiffs in the case agrees.

"The judge has essentially ruled that the minister does what the minister wants and that is a very dangerous precedent."

Marois announced the differential tuition fee strategy at the tail end of a province-wide student strike in November 1996 and the move was seen by some students as an attempt to divide the student movement protesting accessible education. The policy was adopted by the provincial Cabinet in December.

Durocher says the Quebec decision will have a serious impact outside the province. Differential tuition fee policies are currently being considered by provincial governments in British Columbia and Alberta. As federal transfer payments drop, more provinces are predicted to follow suit to compensate for lost revenue for post-secondary education.

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KPMG controversy stirs constitutional debate

Students are urged to
voice opinions to council
at next meeting

by Laurel Nast

Controversy continues to surround the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) Executive Committee's attempt to gain approval for the KPMG management consulting contract. Law councilor Mario Nigro charges that procedures the Executive used in entering the contract were unconstitutional. The Executive maintains, however, that established procedures were followed, and that misunderstandings are largely to blame for the KPMG debate.

A letter of intent to enter into a contract with KPMG was signed by the Executive Committee on October 8, 1997. Under the proposed contract, KPMG would provide the SSMU with management and restructuring consultation, at a cost of up to \$25,000.

After the letter of intent was signed, the Executive Committee reported its dealings with KPMG in four reports to the SSMU Council,

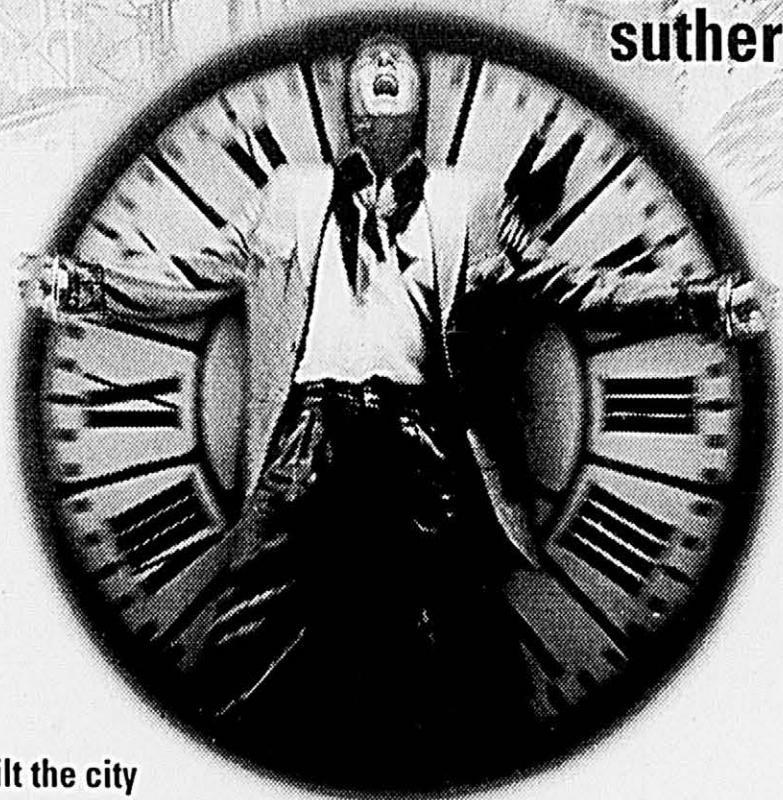
provided regularly for council meetings. On September 11, the chair of council ruled that matters contained in the executive reports would receive automatic council approval, if council raised no questions about them. This ruling was not challenged by council.

At a council meeting on January 22, concerns were raised about the procedures the executive followed in its attempt to gain approval for the KPMG contract. Council members rejected the Executive's assertion that the KPMG contract had been approved automatically by its inclusion in Executive Committee reports, and requested further discussion of the issues.

At the next meeting, on February 6, vp finance Duncan Reid tried to have a debate on the KPMG contract and have it voted on during the 'new business' portion of the meeting. Reid's attempt was stopped

(continued on page 10)

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Student Activists take over Montréal

(continued from page 1)

Yves Manseau, a member of Citoyen(ne)s opposé(e)s à la brutalité policière, and one of those arrested at the Queen E. protest, expressed solidarity with the occupiers. "I spent nine days in prison (after the hunger protest) and I know, when you're inside somewhere and there are police all around you, it's good to have people supporting you outside."

A representative from the Chilean student movement offered greetings and solidarity from students fighting neo-liberal policies in Chile, and declared that the same battle is being fought around the world. Student Karen Bardsley spoke of the moral need for people to organize democratically to ensure quality education and social services for all. "If this is a democracy," she stated, "we are the government as well as the governed, and it is therefore not naive or idealistic to use government to improve general human welfare."

Also featured in the demonstration were two large puppets: The Goddess of Knowledge, representing education in which knowledge sets people free, and the Profit Prophet, representing "education that trains people for the market, makes them into marketable products," as "Operation Puppet" director Tasha Bollerup explained. Despite technical difficulties with the Prophet they ringed by their respective supporters, (with

faces painted for the occasion) were prominent as the demonstration made its way down Sherbrooke Street, stopping at one point so the Prophet could pose in front of the Scotiabank on Sherbrooke and Metcalfe. Dancing around them in mock flight were people wearing colourful "wings of freedom." A mock convocation was staged on the sidewalk across from the occupation site, in which the Prophet's minions stripped demonstrators one by one of their "wings of freedom" made them don "drone" masks and presented them with bar code diplomas. That is, until one "graduating student" resisted, refusing to surrender her wings, and tearing up her diploma. All the graduates rebelled, tearing up their diplomas, taking back their wings, and dancing a dance of freedom. The Profit Prophet shriveled and died, and the Goddess emerged triumphant. After all this, what next? Anna Kruzynski stated afterwards that events like this and last November's Plan G are "part of a growing trend...I see the culmination of it coming very soon, especially against the MAI. Not just students, but everyone." If the government doesn't hold a referendum on the MAI, she said, "we will need to do some serious mobilizations" going beyond Days of Action to include, possibly, a general strike. "Because if this passes, there won't be any point in even making these demands anymore."

JUST FUN AND GAMES

A personal account of winter carnival 1998

by Jennie Warren

Freedom of expression was in full force at Annie's on the first Sunday night of the Management Carnival Week.

During this week, various Faculty of Management folk come together for this traditional cultural celebration where a smorgasbord of events, ranging from lip-synching to beer chugging, take place. The days are organized with fun and frolicking competitions between teams, while the students anticipate the heavy nightlife. One knows they mean drinking business when the sun sets and the teams mount into their "puke suits" which advertise their team names and presumed mandates. That evening at Annie's, I was privileged to observe the wit of a particular team's name, Penal Penetration, and accompanying logo on their "puke suits."

The logo consisted of a cartoon of a prison inmate (decked up in his jail stripes) with a maliciously self-satisfied look on his face, penally penetrating a woman on her hands and knees-doggie-style. The woman resem-

bled a nude plastic-blow-up-type, visually and attitudinally. Talk about stereotypical dumb blond getting fucked over. I was disgusted and left immediately, and then the questions began to roll.

What did that logo have to do with management and its celebrations? Did the creators think that it was funny? I admit there is a certain amount of sexist wit to it, but what makes a sexually degrading depiction of women so knee-slappingly funny?

In order to get to the bottom of this I first spoke with one of the co-chairs of Carnival Week, Debbie Gordon. She acknowledged a tradition of offensive behavior at the management Carnival Week celebrations. Regulations have been established to monitor the sexual aspect of carnival. For example, Buns and Bellies event was canceled, and ostensibly no sexual domination was permitted, although there is free reign on who can be a team captain, and team names and logos are left to their discretion.

Next I spoke to - rather, I received the belligerence, of one of the two team captains, Marc Sadegursky. That I had the audacity to engage him in debate over the matter of his logo infuriated him: "I'm sick of you people ruining my [note possessive form] carnival week!" This general idea was repeatedly driven at me, even after I made a plea for basic communication, so I hung up.

I pursued. I spoke next to participant Kenny Kunin, who admitted that Marc was "a bit of a loose cannon." Kenny is a firm believer in freedom of expression. He explained to me that his logo "was meant to be humorous" and described their goal was to create the funniest cartoon after their first drawing was considered too realistic looking. He also said that "Hopefully at such an intelligent institution as McGill, people wouldn't take such stereotypes seriously." Furthermore, Kenny advised that if anyone did take offense, that they should just "not come to

(continued on page 4)

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CASA Re~writing History?

BY CARL WARREN AND ED JANZEN

Source: The Varsity and The Manitoban

OTTAWA (CUP) Some people are scratching their heads over a recent press release put out by the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations.

The release, entitled "CASA encouraged by CFS Support for National Grants," thanks the Canadian Federation of Students for supporting their proposal to implement a national system of grants.

"CASA today expressed its gratitude towards the CFS for joining in CASA's battle to get student grants made into a national priority," the document states.

The alliance, which represents 13 student councils across Canada, made this declaration Jan. 22, just days after the 400,000 member-strong federation publicly announced the Jan. 28 Day of Action, which had the theme Stop Student Debt, Na-

tional Grants Now.

"It's an interesting revision of history, to put it bluntly," Jennifer Story, deputy chair of the federation, said.

She points to the fact that the federation has been fighting for a system of national grants since its inception 17 years ago. At the 1981 Canadian Federation of Students founding meeting, the federation adopted its first campaign, entitled 'Grants not Loans.'

"We've always, always, always fought for grants," Story said "We were vocal when the provinces were cutting grants, which is what led us to the debt crisis that [has of late] stepped up the campaign for national grants."

And federation documentation shows that precursors to the CFS supported national grants as far back as the '50s and '60s. For example, one such group supported a

1963 proposal by Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson to introduce a student assistance program comprised of 10,000 scholarships worth \$1,000 each.

Two years after the federation's creation, then secretary of state Gerald Regan promised the group that the federal government would introduce a new student aid plan that year which would include a grants component. None was forthcoming.

A limited grants program -special opportunity grants - were introduced in 1995, the same year CASA was formed.

In the alliance's founding 56-page document, there is no mention made of grants.

Alliance national director Hoops Harrison says his organization is in no way attempting to take credit or grab the historical spotlight for elevating a national system of grants with the press release.

He adds any debate about who originated what policy is pointless. "The debate on who did what first is one that nobody, I hope, wants to waste energy pursuing," he said. "Nobody can really claim [they were first], because in the student movement there's always someone before you that has pursued these initiatives."

But Chris Carter, immediate past-president of the McGill Students' Union, which is a CASA member, says the alliance is backtracking - a product of a fool-hardy attention-grab.

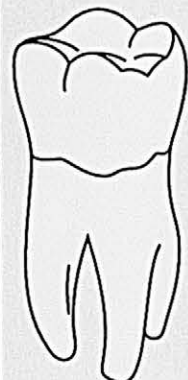
"I guess I'm not surprised," Carter said after reading the release. "[CASA] doesn't have enough staff to do its own campaigns significantly so its relies on press releases to try and get attention."

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Detrimental decisions

Canadian government announces support of military strike against Iraq

by Olga Hartmann

Last week, the Canadian government announced its full support of a possible military strike on Iraq by the United States. The strike has been threatened as a result of Saddam Hussein's refusal to allow UN arms inspection teams into Iraq.

Elsa Khoury, Executive Assistant at the Canadian Arab Federation, called the possible strike a "renegade mission," saying that most of the international community is in favor of further negotiations in lieu of military action: "The Arab League and most of the European Union as well as Russia and China think that negotiation tactics should be used. The United Nations Security Council does not support the United States," stated Khoury.

According to Khoury, the credibility and authority of the United Nations would be weakened if the United States were to follow through with its threat. Furthermore, the Canadian government, usually neutral in the face of political world crises,

would reinforce this negation of the diplomatic function of UN. The Canadian Arab Federation also raised questions concerning the bias of the arm inspection team. "The composition of the team is not completely balanced," Khoury explained. "There may be too many US members on the team in order for there to be a fair inspection."

Khoury also contends that "There is no proof that biological and chemical weapons are being manufactured in Iraq and even if they were, there are so many other countries in that region who have the same capacity and do not receive sanctions from the US." She stated that the United States is being inconsistent in its Middle East policy by attacking Iraq for violating United Nations resolutions while still tacitly supporting Israel, a country that has also been accused of violating UN codes. "This is a double standard. Israel has violated 69 UN resolutions in the past 50 years and they receive millions of dollars every

year," claims Khoury.

Representatives of the federation say that a military strike would cause large scale destruction of the Iraqi people. Ever since the U.S. first imposed the economic embargo following the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the country has been ravaged by destitution and over one million lives have been lost. "The United States is willing to pursue its ulterior motive for maintaining control over Iraq at the cost of more Iraqi lives," declared Khoury. "The embargo has done nothing to Hussein's power, it has only paralyzed the infrastructure and punished innocent civilians."

The Canadian Arab Federation is disappointed in their governments decision to take such a stance on this sensitive political issue. Dr. John Asfour, also a member of the federation, gravely commented: "We are very sad and we are very upset that Canada has decided to support the US's actions."

A personal account of winter carnival 1998

(continued from page 3) Carnival Week," (This may have been difficult for some, as the Management Faculty celebrators were rampaging various campus and other off-campus locales during that week). I am uncertain as to what kind of team spirit this attitude is meant to invoke coming from a team captain. Elaborating further on his argument of freedom of expression, Kenny elucidated his belief that people have the right to express whatever they want to (including the Nazis, he said) and that the onus is on others to deal with their interpretations of what they hear and see. He used a more neutral example of toothpaste commercials to illustrate his point. He explained how ad-

vertisements for different toothpastes exist, but it is ultimately up to who is watching to pick the preferred toothpaste. On this particular point, I had to agree.

Above all, Kenny evaded responsibility for his opinions and actions. He did not seem to think that skewing reality by misrepresenting and degrading 51% of the population was his problem. Nazis theoretically had and have the right to distribute their propaganda in the name of freedom of expression. In Kenny's case, freedom of expression is an excuse for ignorance. And after all of my investigations, the joke is still beyond me. I suppose that's the feminist in me, stereotypically speaking.

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A hermaphrodite birth in Scotland

Test tube birth raises questions about reproductive technology

by Nicola Delerue

Birth of test-tube babies is now a widespread birthing technique, but some natural protections against genetic malformation are inhibited while using this technique. In many cases, these malformations can be detected early, but sometimes they are not. One of these malformations led to the birth of a hermaphrodite baby a few days ago in Aberdeen, Scotland.

The birth of Louise Brown, the world's first test-tube baby 20 years ago, has given hope to many infertile couples. In 20 years, more than 100,000 children have been born as the result of in vitro fertilisation (IVF). And for many couples, IVF is the only way of having children with their genetic features. In many different cases of infertility, In-vitro fertilisation can be used as a subsidiary solution to the natural process that can not occur.

The principle of IVF is that the physician collects sperm and ova from the infertile couple and mixes them in a test-tube. Then the first steps of the pregnancy are made 'in vitro' (in the test-tube), and then the eggs are implanted in the uterine of

the wife or of a surrogate mother.

A recent issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine* reported a case where the baby was born with a male and a female sex. During the in-vitro fertilisation, an X and a Y chromosome fused, and "In combination, the genetics or chromosomes were mixed to become one fetus," explained Dr. Dorothy Mitchell-Leef, a reproductive biology associate. This also occurs in nature, "maybe one in every 25,000 deliveries," she said.

As this is the first case reported in 20 years, experts say that couples considering IVF must not be alarmed, and Dr. Mark Perloe, a reproductive specialist at the Atlanta Reproductive Health Centre said he will still counsel IVF to infertile couples.

Specialists say that this 'hermaphrodite' abnormality may be rectified by surgery, but it may provoke infertility problems.

There are no reports showing that IVF has increased the odds of abnormalities at birth, and many physicians believe that IVF is still the solution for infertile couples.

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Canoe

by Jeff Webber

The men's movement's dark side, epitomized by the Christian fundamentalist right wing organization, the Promise Keepers, is flourishing in the U.S. and now in Canada. Women's groups, pro-choice advocates, and men and women generally opposed to the confines of a patriarchal society say there's ample reason to be frightened, and that groups such as the Promise Keepers must be combated.

A heinous backlash to the progressive accomplishments of feminism, or a warm Christian group concerned with men reclaiming responsibility for their children and their families? Asking any of the prominent leaders of the Promise Keepers and you will receive a rehearsed statement resembling the latter. Evidence acquired through further analysis of the Promise Keepers, however, reveals scant evidence of this line of thought.

Typical Promise Keepers advice to a man who would like to reclaim his position of power in the family runs something like this: "Sit down with your wife and say something like this: 'Honey I've made a terrible mistake... I gave up leading this family, and I forced you to take my place. Now I must reclaim that role.' I'm not suggesting you ask for your role back, I'm urging you to take it back. There can be no compromise here. If you're going to lead, you must lead. Treat the lady gently and lovingly. But lead!" This is what Dr. Tony Evans, a Promise Keeper leader and writer for the Urban Alternative, publication of the Christian International Network, Inc., tells men attending Promise Keepers conferences.

The Promise Keepers was founded by Bill McCartney, former head football coach at the University of Colorado. The group's first conference was held in July, 1991 at the University of Colorado basketball arena, with 4,200 men in attendance. To date, over two million men have attended Promise Keepers stadium

The Backlash Against the Backlash

The Promise Keepers have come under fire by women's groups, and by women with voices in the political community. One such woman, Patricia Ireland, wrote an article in the September 7, 1997 issue of the Washington Post. In the article Ireland warns American citizens about the implications of the Promise Keepers "double talk." In recent years, the Promise Keepers have toned down their rhetoric when addressing the public and press, portraying themselves as a unilaterally religious, men's organization, with no parallel political intentions.

In her article, Ireland uncovers some of the alternative motives within the Promise Keepers agenda. For example, when Jerry Falwell, an influential Promise Keeper, "claims he does not condone anti-abortion violence but paid \$10,000 toward Operation Rescue boss Randy Terry's fine on a felony stemming from O.R.'s violent siege of women's clinics during the 1988 Democratic Na-

Republican Party's mailing list. Apolitical? Ireland begs to differ. She encourages the public to visit the Promise Keeper's chat groups on the Internet, "and see if you, too, don't note that abortion is the number one topic - not a woman's right to choose, but an abortion opponent's right to kill abor-

"Don't you understand, mister, you are royalty, and God has chosen you to be priest of your home."
- Tony Evans

Defending their Movement

The Promise Keepers now have two avenues of defense against claims that they are radically right-wing, anti-women, and obtusely patriarchal.

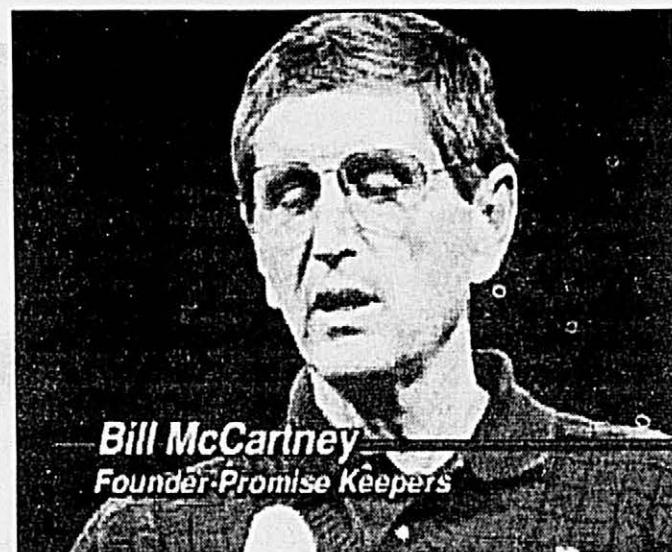
cut and dry as men wanting to provide more love and support for their children and families, most opponents of the group would say fine.

However, the polemical component of the Promise Keepers is that their leaders have wide reaching, ultra-radical aims that are admittedly unknown to many of the men attending these stadium events.

The second defense mechanism

"What you are about to hear is God's word to the men of this nation. We are going to war as of tonight. We have divine power; that is our weapon. We will not compromise. Wherever truth is at rise, in the schools or legislature, we are going to contend for it. We will win."

-Bill McCartney, founder of The Promise Keepers



One is the fact that the mainstream media tends to focus on the group's large stadium events, where the viewer receives images of average men, seemingly our neighbors and relatives, concerned solely with the betterment of men as fathers, husbands, and Christians. If the agenda were as

employed by the Christian organization is the establishment of women's sects of the Promise Keepers, most importantly the Independent Women's Forum. The aim here is to recruit more women into the Promise Keepers, and to promote the organization as one conducive to a comfortable exist-

e Man

Canada's religious Right grows stronger

"Gays and lesbians are stark and raving mad."
- Bill McCartney

ence for women. It is also a way of countering feminists' condemnation of the Promise Keepers.

A Women's Right

According to Christina Hoff Sommers, one of the leaders of the Independent Women's Forum, the group stands for "fairness and equality between the sexes, without painting women as victims and men as brutes."

Further, the Independent Women's Forum publishes The Women's Quarterly, with articles written by members of the group. A theme common to the content in these articles, is evident in one by Lisa Schirren. She starts the piece entitled "Is that all there is?" with a conversation between two women over forty, lamenting their decision not to have children earlier in life because now it is too late. The article continues to condemn the sexual liberation of women, and promotes the conception that a woman's role is a reproductive one.

"So here is lesson number one: whatever benefits sexual freedom affords girls— and there are, unquestionably, a few— it creates costs of a quite profound nature for the women they will become. Childless, whether because one is unmarried or infertile, is the cause of considerable deeper unhappiness in the lives of women, and the men they marry, then desire deferred...time is not on a woman's side when it comes to fertility," says Schirren.

A Women's group in Canada that resembles the Independent Women's Forum, but is not affiliated with the Promise Keepers, is the REAL Women of Canada (Realistic Equality Action League). This group also aids and abets the dark side of the men's movement through its claims at being "realistic" in their aims of gender equality, while painting feminists as disillusioned, radical, and essentially insane.

REAL Women's motto echoes that of the Independent Women's Forum, "Women's rights, but not at the expense of Human Rights." On the REAL Women of Canada's

web site one can read the group's self-proclaimed identity: "We are pro-life, pro-family, non-denominational, non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots women's advocacy organization."

This group also utilizes the same sort of "double talk" of which the others are so fond. After claiming that no women's group can speak for all women, REAL Women then attempt to do just that when discussing reproduction and what it means to women, "90 percent of women either have children or want to have children." How they arrived at this number is not elaborated.

These anti-feminist women's organizations, in correlation with groups such as the Promise Keepers have been expanding feverishly under the guise of a responsibility-driven, Christian-based, men's movement. 45,000 Canadian women are now members of the

be liberated from that." - Tony Evans.

"It's been too long that three percent of homosexuals control our moral majority." - Tony Evans.

"Gays and lesbians are stark and raving mad." - Bill McCartney.

This is a clear example of the group's "double talk" when juxtaposed with their official stance on homosexuality, as it appears on their web site: "Promise Keepers shares the same historic stance taken by Evangelicals and Catholics: that sex is a good gift from God to be enjoyed in the context of heterosexual marriage. We believe that the bible clearly teaches that homosexuality violates God's creative design for a husband and a wife and that

sexual.

Many activists are concerned with the implications of this movement for the status of women, the queer community, and minorities. In her article, Ireland states some of reasons why this fear could be substantiated, in reference to the Promise Keepers.

"The arch foe of women's rights and civil rights behind the Promise keepers cannot quit claiming they are all about Godly male bonding and not about political organizing. They had a staff of 450

Keepers that they opted to withdraw their request and remove the matter from the council's agenda, thus foreclosing public discussion," Novosad said. Several journalists, and activists, including Novosad, had been invited to testify at the hearing. The inability of the Promise Keepers to safely stage an event at the Rose Bowl, was a massive blow to the organization's esteem. In fundraising letters at the end of 1996, McCartney stated that "for the first time we have also seen stadiums that were not filled to capacity," and "our revenues have not been keeping pace with our projections."

A Continual War

However optimistic some activists are, there is still evidence mounting that supports Ireland's fear of this religious group's political potential. The Religious Right, according to many, is still a potent weapon in the American, and now the Canadian, political and social environment.

The increasing resonance of militaristic speeches by Bill McCartney and the like are potentially a threat to the well being of those sectors of society that the Promise Keepers choose to condemn.

"What you are about to hear is God's word to the men of this nation. We are going to war as of tonight. We have divine power; that is our weapon. We will not compromise. Wherever truth is at rise, in the schools or legislature, we are going to contend for it. We will win," McCartney declared in 1992.

Most activists warn not to take McCartney's "war" lightly. It is a war against women, ethnic minorities, religious minorities, the queer community, and pluralistic democracy in its totality.

"I believe that feminists of the more aggressive persuasion are frustrated women unable to find the proper male leadership."
- Tony Evans

REAL Women of Canada.

An Underlying Agenda

Although persistent "double talk" has allowed such groups to gain positive media attention, some quotations taken by speeches of key Promise Keepers seem to delineate a more radical agenda.

"Don't you understand, mister, you are royalty, and God has chosen you to be priest of your home." - Tony Evans.

"I believe that feminists of the more aggressive persuasion are frustrated women unable to find the proper male leadership. If a woman were receiving the right kind of love and attention and leadership, she would not want to

it is a sin."

It is evident that however offensive this quotation is, it is of a quieter tone than that of Bill McCartney when he is in front of his professed followers. The Promise Keepers continue on their homophobic tirade, but attempt to package it in such away as to convince the less radically inclined. "Because we have experienced the love of Christ, we desire to share His love with all men. While we have clear convictions regarding the issue of homosexuality, we invite homosexuals to be recipients of God's mercy, grace, and forgiveness, available to everyone through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We therefore support their being included and welcomed in our events," the web site reads.

Homosexuals are, therefore, not in actuality accepted into the Promise Keepers if they do not enter with the mindset of receiving God's mercy, as opposed to loving themselves for being homo-

and a budget of more than \$97 million last year. That is one large self-help group," Ireland warns.

Fighting the Religious Right

Some activists do think there is hope in the fight against the Third Wave of the Religious Right. Nancy Novosad, is an author, and contributor to Promise Keepers Watch, an organization on the Internet that attempts to reveal the authentic, dangerous ideas of the group, rather than their digestible rhetoric. Novosad believes that cities can effectively confront the Promise Keepers when they stage events within each city's jurisdiction.

She cites the example of November 26, 1996, when the Promise Keepers abruptly withdrew their request for usage of the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California when the city council opted for a public hearing on the legitimacy of the event.

"Open debate and public scrutiny of their real agenda apparently so threatened the Promise

Stay of Execution for a Piece of Montréal's Heritage

Approval of demolishing permit overturned

by Alex Hill

Residents of the Plateau Montréal have won a surprising victory in the ongoing battle to save our city's architectural heritage. Jan Kubanek, an architectural apprentice, and Walter Galuga, his landlord, successfully appealed the demolition permit issued to a contractor who wished to destroy the building at 4129-37 Coloniale St.

"We feel that the building has significant architectural interest, which warrants its conservation," said Kubanek.

In November of last year the city issued a demolition permit to Construction Gamarce, allowing them to replace the existing building with a new structure of seven condominiums. Kubanek and Galuga, who live next door to the building in question, appealed to the city when they saw a demolition notice posted on the building.

On February 4, The Commission D'arbitrage du Code du Logement (CDCL), overruled the permit. The reasons cited in their report were: the building's acceptable state, its particularly attractive architecture that fits with the style of the street, the affordable cost to renovate the existing structure, the negative effects of the shadows cast by the proposed three story building and the high vacancy rate in the area.

For Kubanek, the "decorative red and yellow brick work, the carved

wood cornice," and the, "arched porte-cochere," were the important features of the building in question.

He added that these features "denote the work of a craftsman behind the [building's] design, typical of Montréal's early 20th century architectural style."

Kubanek was also concerned over the negative impact of a potential shadow cast by a new three story building.

"The street is too narrow for three story buildings... I feel as though two story buildings may become an endangered species on the Plateau," he said.

Jeanne Wolfe, head of the School of Urban Planning at McGill, said that new building projects must, "respect community values and character." She feels that the proposed demolition and construction failed this goal in two ways. According to Wolfe, the project entailed "destroying a perfectly good building," and, "replacing [it] with a building that would change the character of the street."

Wolfe went on to say that the Plateau needs to have a higher population density to "better use the services offered in the area." The seven unit structure would help to increase the population density but because the units would be smaller there would be a tendency for them to become rental units. Wolfe believes

that communities with "more [home] owners... are better cared for."

Jackie Arduini, one of the owners of Construction Gamarce, said that the City was offering him a sub-

tion projects.

This turn of events poses an important question: if the building is valuable, why did the City issue the permit and offer a subsidy for its

Hochelega and Cotes des Neige.

However, according to Cyr, "there is no more money to subsidy building on empty lots this year."

This case shows that it is up to local citizens to challenge demolition projects if the City's architectural history and integrity are to be saved. The largest such challenge on the plateau to date was the forming of the Milton Park Cooperative surrounding the La Cité complex on Park Avenue. Originally, La Cité was to extend from Avenue des Pins to Milton St. and from Hutchison St. to Saint Famille St. A sixteen year battle between community members and the company building La Cité, resulted in a 99 year hiatus in the issuing of building permits in this zone. The houses saved were purchased by the Co-op and renovated, making the area a very desirable place to live.

Kubanek said, "Citizens have the responsibility and power to maintain the valuable features of their community." It appears that while the city encourages potentially damaging development projects it is also willing to consider the interests of the community at large, provided a spokesperson emerges. Kubanek concluded by saying, "the City dealt with this issue properly, [they] gave me a chance to speak."



Saved from the wrecking ball

sidy of \$84,000 to construct the new building, compared to the \$60,000 subsidy available for renovation of the existing structure. Arduini

commented that the difference between the two subsidies is almost exactly equal to the cost to demolish the existing structure. When asked what he would do with the building if the permit was revoked, Arduini said that he would, "sell the building immediately." Arduini's company is not involved in renova-

demolition in the first place? The initial permit was issued without any assessment of the building's architectural significance; only zoning requirements were considered.

Bernard Cyr, Head of the City's Building Subsidies Department said that new buildings in the city are eligible for a \$12,000 per unit subsidy, provided that they are replacing an existing structure. Subsidies for building on empty lots are only available in certain areas, such as

RECONCILIATION OR REJECTION

THE LSA DEMANDS A NEW DEAL FROM THE SSMU

by Paul Sheridan

The Law Students Association of McGill (LSA) has issued a request for a new financial relationship with the Students' Society along with the warning that the relationship could end altogether.

Steve Kelly, President of LSA, has written to SSMU president Tara Newell that "on January 30, the LSA Council passed a unanimous motion instructing [him] to begin negotiations with the SSMU in order to restructure the [SSMU] student fees that law students currently pay. If no agreement is reached by April 1, the council has also agreed to vote on the initia-

tion of a referendum recommending withdrawal from the SSMU."

The key issue in this dispute is money, namely the \$28 fee which all McGill Law students pay to the SSMU. Currently, 72% of that fee (around \$20.18) is kept by the SSMU, while the remaining 28% goes to the LSA. The SSMU provides this money to the LSA in recognition of the fact that Law Students rarely use the services which the SSMU provides.

The LSA, however, is not content with the \$7.82 it currently receives per law student and wishes either to gain a larger percentage of the SSMU fee or to allow Law

Students to pay a lower fee. Kelly, currently in negotiations with Newell and Duncan Reid, SSMU Vice President of Finance, was unwilling to comment on the exact size of these percentages or fee reductions.

Kelly sees his councils' request as the culmination of several years of "growing dissatisfaction and distrust between law students and the SSMU." He claims that concerns regarding the fees have been discussed at LSA council meetings since 1994, if not earlier. Poor communication, in his view, has been the cause of the strained relationship between the two groups.

"We get the feeling that we're not part of the SSMU club," he says.

What does not appear to be at issue in this dispute is the current political agenda of the Student's Society. For example, both Kelly and Mario Nigro, the law representative on the SSMU council, were strong supporters of the SSMU's efforts to expand Daycare services on campus and urged law students to support that expansion in last semester's daycare referendum. Furthermore, the SSMU fee at issue does not fund Walksafe, Nightline, the Women's Union, the Sexual Assault center or the library improvement fund. All these

services are paid for through separate fees which law students support and are willing to continue to pay in full.

Kelly met with Newell and Reid on the morning of February 12 to begin negotiations on fee redistribution. Kelly stated afterwards that "the meeting went great." Newell reported that she and Reid are "very happy with the discussion [they] had this morning" and that "finding some sort of agreement will not be a problem." Newell and Kelly hope to meet later this week to work out the details of a new arrangement.

Throwing it back in the face of the Feds

Provincial and Territorial governments condemn MAI

by Jeremy Nelson

(CUP) Outrage over the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) spreading from provincial legislatures to the Liberal backbench in Ottawa is throwing a wrench in the federal government's plan to sign the 29-nation free trade pact by the spring.

The Yukon, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia and Saskatchewan have joined forces to condemn the MAI in its present form, saying that the intensely controversial treaty will destroy many of the social, environmental and economic institutions upon which Canada is built.

The government of Canada has been negotiating the MAI for almost three years and intends to sign the treaty in just a few months.

In its present form, the MAI could open up Canadian health care, education and natural resources to unlimited foreign ownership. It would also give any transnational corporation the right to sue any level of Canadian government that enacts a law which the corporation deems harmful to its business.

"People across the country must stand against the MAI," said Todd Hardy, a member of the Yukon legislative assembly, after introducing a motion condemning the treaty. "Essential health care and social programs are threatened by these negotiations, and our democratic rights will be cut out from under us."

Hardy's motion, which was passed by the Yukon legislature with loud applause, demands that the federal government cease all MAI negotiations and facilitate the full participation of all Canadians in major decisions affecting the nation's economic future. Yukon's concern over the secretive process by which the MAI has been negotiated is shared by many opponents of the treaty and recently came to the forefront of the debate when a group of Liberal backbenchers openly criticized their government's handling of the MAI.

"This thing has been done in

stealth for a long time," Liberal Member of Parliament Clifford Lincoln said at a recent environmental committee hearing. "It really shakes me to the core to think that we are going to sign something in April without the public or the provinces having seen it. I think it's just very, very bad."

This concern about lack of public consultation on the MAI was at the heart of a motion passed by the Prince Edward Island legisla-

"Canadians have had no chance to voice their concerns at the table," Hardy said.

ture in late December. The motion, which demanded full cross-Canada hearings on the treaty, was brought forward by NDP member of the legislative assembly Herb Dickieson. It was supported unanimously by the Progressive Conservative Government and the opposition Liberals, even though both parties are in favor of the MAI at the Federal level.

"We didn't feel it was necessary for transnational corporations to have a charter of rights to protect their interests at the expense of small-business people and the general population," Dickieson said, alluding to the clause in the MAI that would prevent governments from giving special treatment to Canadian small businesses.

For Islanders, Dickieson says, there are many reasons to be concerned about the treaty, the most dramatic of which are how it could completely open up P.E.I.'s waters to foreign fishing vessels and allow transnational corporations to take over small businesses, which are the main generators of wealth in the province's economy. Dickieson adds that the P.E.I. motion should make it hard for other provincial governments to avoid passing similar statements demanding more public consultation. "The fact that we've had an all-party agreement in P.E.I.

makes it even easier for governments of all political stripes to make similar moves in their respective provinces," Dickieson claims.

Two provincial legislatures likely to follow suit are British Columbia and Saskatchewan, both of which have condemned the MAI, but have yet to pass any specific motions concerning it.

"We don't need the MAI, and we want to convey to the federal government in the strongest terms that the B.C. government is opposed to this agreement," Joan Smallwood, chair of the B.C. NDP caucus, said in a release to the federal government in late January. "It's obvious the Chrétien Liberals are more concerned with catering to the demands of foreign investors, instead of listening to the citizens they are supposed to represent. This is like Brian Mulroney and NAFTA all over again, only this time the stakes are much higher and the results are worse," she added.

"We didn't feel it was necessary for transnational corporations to have a charter of rights to protect their interests at the expense of small-business people and the general population," Dickieson said.

B.C.'s opposition to the treaty was made clear at the recent MAI subcommittee hearings in Ottawa, where Ian Waddell, a member of the B.C. legislative assembly, told the government that if the MAI is signed, they could count British Columbia out of the deal. Waddell says that since the submission, he has received numerous calls of support from citizens across the country.

"Why are we getting a big response to our opposition?" asked Waddell. "Well, it's not because people are totally familiar with the intricacies of trade legislation. I think it's because they have recognized that enough is enough to

this trend of globalization."

Premier of Saskatchewan Roy Romanow seems to agree with Waddell, saying that globalization is only leading to what is commonly called "the race to the bottom." "We say to Ottawa that what it is developing on the MAI is a set of rules that will put Canada into a straightjacket," Romanow said at a constituency meeting in early February. "We will ally with the poorest of the poor, and [insist that] any international trade agreements would have to recognize trade-union rights, the preservation of the environment and human rights."

Dexter Bishop, a spokesperson for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade said he was unable to comment on the provincial and territorial opposition to the MAI. "I'm not sure [the opposition] says anything about the [MAI] discussions in particular," Bishop commented, adding that there are no concrete plans in place for wider public consultation. "I don't want to put my feet

in any political swamp, but it feels a bit early for that kind of comment in advance of a [final MAI] text."

Nevertheless, all provinces and territories concerned about the MAI say they will continue to speak out against the treaty and inform the public as actively as possible. Taking things a step further, Yukon is even considering launching a lawsuit against the government to derail the MAI, based on the grounds that the treaty is unconstitutional.

"Canadians have had no chance to voice their concerns at the table," Hardy said. "Basically, this deal is a power grab so transnational corporations can undermine the decisions of national, provincial, territorial, municipal and First Nation governments."

Source: The Manitoban

events

Monday, February 16

Thinking of moving out on your own? Getting your own apartment? **Heads and Hands** has a program just for you! The 1998 version of our popular "Living on my own" program will begin Monday. Info: Bruce at Head and Hands 481-0277 or 481-3643 or drop in at 2304 Old Orchard (corner Sherbrooke) in N.D.G.

Tuesday, February 17

Barbara Epstein will be giving a talk entitled "Partnerships in Empowerment: A 5 Year Overview", on behalf of the **Community Advocacy/Genesis Israel Experience**. Location: Federation CJA in Wilson Hall, Room 115, 5151 Cote-Ste-Catherine. This is co-sponsored by MCHRAT.

The ICRF Fashion Show is hitting McGill! Tickets and Info: 481-27723.

Wednesday, February 18

Come to the **World University Service of Canada (WUSC)** of Concordia's MAI info coffee house. A taped interview with Noam Chomsky on MAI and other trade agreements will be shown followed by a discussion. Info and letter writing resource kits, coffee and donuts will be supplied free of charge. 16h 10 18h. In the lobby of the Graduate House, 2030 Mackay.

Thursday, February 19

There will be a coffee house organized by the **Women's Union** for the Quebec Heart Stroke Foundation at Thompson House at 9:30 pm.

Ongoing

You can be a Volunteer Literacy Tutor. Following a Literacy survey initiated by us, the **Jamaica Association in Montréal**, we discovered that people in the Black community need your help. Earn valuable experiences tutoring youths and adults in basic math reading and writing. If you are interested please contact Maria Finitis: 737-8229. A Training and Metro Pass is provided to our volunteer Tutors.

Are you looking for rewarding volunteer work? Help someone learn to read and write. The "Words for Women" service of the **YWCA of Montréal**; Will train women as volunteer literacy tutors in March 6th, 7th, 8th 1998. Interviews and registration are taking place February 4th to 28th, 1998 inclusively at the women's "Y," 1355 René-Lévesque Blvd. West ((at Crescent). Info: 866-9941 ext. 512, 513 or 214.

"Am I Bi Enough for Bi Group?" **The Bi Discussion Group** meets from 17h30 to 19h in the Women's Union (Shatner Room 423). every Tuesday. Open to women and men; bisexual or bi-curious... Friendly discussion about being bi and how it affects our lives. Info: call LBGTMM at 398-6822 or Angie at 282-8854.

KPMG controversy stirs constitutional debate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

when several councilors expressed concern that the Executive was attempting pressure tactics on council.

"Duncan Reid looked like he wanted to push the contract through late at night, without any debate, and without providing councilors with any documentation regarding the terms of the contract," says Nigro. "We serve the students and we have the time to carry on meaningful discussion with them about these issues."

It was agreed that councilors would be supplied with information about the KPMG contract before the vote which the Executive hopes to hold at the meeting on February 19.

Nigro says that article 8.2 of the SSMU Constitution has been breached by the Executive. The article stipulates that the Executive Committee acts on behalf of council between meetings, "except that it shall not enter the society into any financial agreement with any organization...prior to receiving recommendations from the committee for Financial Ethics Research (FERC)."

The FERC reviews all financial dealings of the SSMU. According to Nigro, Reid sits on the committee, and it is his responsibility to bring the FERC reports to council. Nigro feels that it is problematic that the FERC's approval of the KPMG contract was reported to council on January 30, when the executive had already signed the letter of intent to contract with KPMG on October 8, three months earlier.

"I argue," says Nigro, "that Mr. Reid and the Executive Committee have demonstrated a blatant disregard for the constitution."

Concerns were also raised by Rich Lafferty, member-at-large of FERC, that FERC had been led to believe that the KPMG contract was a verbal one, and that Reid had not informed FERC that a written letter of intent existed. Reid explained, however, that he

had mistakenly thought that a letter of intent did not constitute a contract, and therefore had not referred to the letter as a written contract.

Nigro disputes any claim of ignorance by Reid, in reference to both the letter and to the Executive's alleged violation of article 8.2.

"Mr. Reid was Speaker of the

interpretive....Council has spoken, and that's the interpretation that we'll follow."

Reid says that before the February 19 meeting, all councilors will receive a comprehensive information package about the KPMG contract, including copies of the KPMG proposal, the letter of intent, and the tender made to the nearest competitor.

"I'm perfectly happy to give [the councilors] whatever they want," Reid says, "and I think now they'll read it. In an ironic way, that's fantastic."

Reid says the Executive had not provided councilors with detailed information on the KPMG contract earlier because of the

potential waste of resources that would have occurred.

"I thought it would be obscene," he says, "to give 30 people this 30 page document that only three to four people would read....Council generally has problems getting to the second page of my documents. [Prior to February 6] I gave out the information to whomever asked."

Nigro is passionate in his condemnation of the Executive for

what he views as its "arrogant, heavy handed" manner. Trying to deal with such an important issue [as KPMG] in such a manipulative way is against the constitution of the SSMU, and demonstrates this Executive's disinterest in real debate and real participation by students and council in important decisions," he says.

Reid says however, that "there is a lot of misinformation and hyperbole going around." He says that "there are a lot of people saying things that are ridiculous, that they haven't researched."

Speaking about the procedures the Executive followed in attempting to pass the KPMG contract, Reid said "we didn't sign a contract and then bind council to it. Council established a procedure [on September 11] and we followed it....I don't think council is

remembering back to September."

Nigro says that regardless of whether the KPMG contract is approved at the February 19 meeting, the SSMU is now responsible for payment under the contract, whether for work done in the form of cancellation penalties, and that is not fair to students.

Both Reid and Newell say, however, that while technically a contract has been formed with KPMG, no work has been done under the contract, and no bills have been submitted to SSMU.

"We haven't told KPMG 'let's do it' yet, because we haven't received approval from council," says Newell.

"And the contract's not approved by council," Newell says. "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

Reid says that at the next meeting he plans to clearly explain the Executive's actions and motives. "We've never had the opportunity to explain ourselves to council," he says. "At this point we've just had spears thrown at us, and we haven't had the opportunity to explain ourselves to council," he says. "At this point we've just had spears thrown at us, and we haven't had the opportunity to defend ourselves. ...All I want is 15 minutes of calm council time, when I can explain this all from

beginning to end. I just want to build some consensus about this. ...[The KPMG contract] is very good for the Students' Society."

Both Newell and Reid say they are committed to the KPMG contract because government cutbacks and student resistance to fee hikes has made effective management of the SSMU a necessity.

Reid has recently announced his candidacy for the presidency of the SSMU.

"I'm in the race, I'm there, but I'm not supporting the KPMG contract to clear my name. If I thought there was wrongdoing, I wouldn't subject myself to the scrutiny that campaigning will bring about. I care about the students and I want to follow through on this vision."

Nigro questions Reid's ability to lead the SSMU.

"We should be extremely concerned about the fact that....Mr. Reid may be responsible for the affairs of the SSMU, with the kind of blatant disregard for the constitution that's been demonstrated. Is this the kind of leadership we want, as students? We need people who are accountable, not above the law."

Newell, Reid and Nigro all urge students to attend the next council meeting, on February 19.

"I'm perfectly happy to give [the councilors] whatever they want. And I think now they'll read it. In an ironic way, that's fantastic."

VP Finance Duncan Reid

Executive did not violate constitutional procedure as it was established at the September 11 meeting. They say, however, that they will introduce the KPMG contract as a formal motion on February 19 in order to satisfy councilors. Debate will precede the vote.

"We're trying to be accountable," says Newell. "I fully intend to give council all the information they want, so they can make an informed decision....I would never say that we didn't follow the constitution, but constitutions are interpretive things....the definition of 'ratification' is

interest in real debate and real participation by students and council in important decisions," he says.

Reid says however, that "there is a lot of misinformation and hyperbole going around." He says that "there are a lot of people saying things that are ridiculous, that they haven't researched."

Speaking about the procedures the Executive followed in attempting to pass the KPMG contract, Reid said "we didn't sign a contract and then bind council to it. Council established a procedure [on September 11] and we followed it....I don't think council is

Differential Fee Court Battle Lost

continued from page 1

SSMU is currently seeking legal advice on the feasibility of launching an appeal and will vote on the issue February 19. If approved, the appeal would come with a price as high as \$25 000 and may take up to a year and a half to pursue.

Plaintiff Paul Ruel, who is anxiously awaiting council's decision, is pressing for an appeal. Originally from British Columbia, he is preparing to enter his final year, but is unsure he will be able to return if the differential tuition fee policy is not overturned. "I'm not sure yet if I can afford to finish my degree here," he said, "It depends if my student loans come through."

Although he admits an appeal would be costly, he sees the alterna-

tive as even more so for both students and the province. Although differential tuition fees have raised an additional \$9 million dollars for university coffers, a report just released by McGill University reveals that the contributions of out-of-province students to the Quebec economy stand at \$170 million dollars. Ruel says the economic impact of McGill University on Quebec outlines a significant revenue that could be lost unless the differential tuition scheme is abandoned.

"It's absolute that out of province students are costing the Quebec government," he claims, "It's a political question and maybe its time for the federal government to step in and do something about it."

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- A) Senators**
Dentistry (0 received)
Education (1 received)
Engineering (1 received)
Law (0 received)
Music (0 received)
Religious Studies (1 received)



- B) Financial Ethics Research Advisors (4)**
(1 received)

- C) CKUT-FM Board of Directors (2)**
(0 received)

- D) Board of Governors Representative (1)**
(1 received)

Nomination forms are available at the SSMU Main Office in the William Shatner University Centre.

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Note: Mandatory meeting for all candidates:
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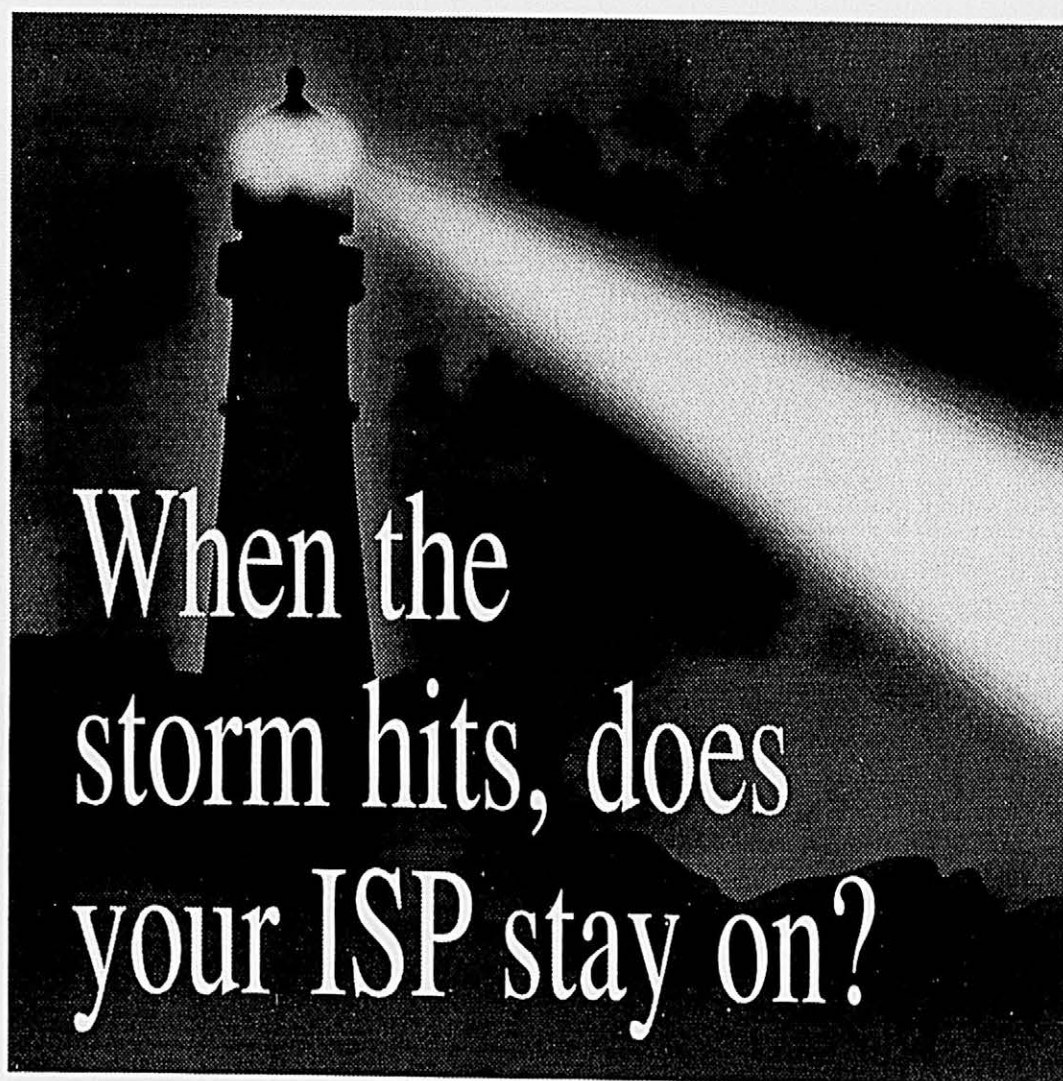
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